

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /141 W
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R 100806Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6662

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJ: SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES: GOM REACTION TO FEER STORY

REF: MANILA 4064

1. SUMMARY: GOM INTENDS NO RESPONSE TO RECENT PUBLIC CHARGES OF INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH PHILIPPINES. GOP IS ADVOCATING "ASEAN SOLUTION," BUT IS UNCLEAR ON WHAT SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD ENTAIL. RAZAK AND SUHARTO WILL MEET IN PENANG ON MAY 3 TO DISCUSS GOM NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC. SABAH CLAIM MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED. END SUMMARY.

2. DURINGLUNCH WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL HASHIM SULTAN, THE REEMERGENCE OF PUBLIC CHARGES OF GOM INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, THIS TIME IN THE FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW (REFTEL), AROSE IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ASEAN ISSUES. HASHIM SAID GOM KNEW FEER STORY WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED, BUT DID NOT INTEND TO
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REACT EITHER PUBLICLY OR IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. GOM

WAS ALSO AWARE GOP HAD BEEN QUIETLY DISTRIBUTING THICK PACKAGE OF STATEMENTS AND AFFIDAVITS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT CHARGES OF GOM INVOLVEMENT. SUCH ACCUSATIONS HAD BEEN CONTINUING THEME IN GOM-GOP RELATIONS GOING BACK TO ROMULO

COMPLAINT TO RAZAK IN 1970 THAT MUSTAPHA HAD HELPED TO FINANCE SERGING OSMENA'S 1969 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARCOS.

3. HIS GOVERNMENT HE CONTINUED HAD NO DESIRE WHATEVER TO ENCOURAGE A BALKANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES. AN INDEPENDENT STATE IN MINDANAO AND SULU WOULD CREAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE GOM. THE CHARGES OF TRAINING GUERRILLAS ON PANKOR ISLAND WERE RIDICULOUS. THE ISLAND IS CRAWLING WITH TOURISTS AND THE ONLY FACILITY RESEMBLING A TRAINING CAMP WAS AN OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL DESIGNED TO DEVELOP SELF-RELIANCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE. IF MALAYSIA WERE INTERESTED IN TRAINING REBELS THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 7,000 ABLE BODIED YOUNG MEN AMONG THE 20,000 FILIPINO REFUGEES NOW LIVING IN SABAH.

4. HASHIM ADMITTED THAT TUN MUSTAPHA WAS RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. SOME OF THIS MONEY, HE SAID, MAY BE GOING TO THE PHILIPPINES, BUT MOST OF IT WAS BEING USED FOR PROSELYTIZING OF SABAH CITIZENS TO EMBRACE ISLAM.

5. MARCOS, IN HASHIM'S PERSONAL VIEW, WAS ATTEMPTING TO SHARE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLITY FOR SOLVING A PROBLEM WHICH ONLY HE COULD DEAL WITH. THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR, EVANGELISTA, HAD COME TO HIM FOR BRIEFING ON THE LAHORE CONFERENCE. HE HAD SUGGESTED AN "ASEAN SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES." HASHIM WAS UNABLE TO GET CLARIFICATION OF WHAT SUCH AN ASEAN SOLUTION MIGHT BE.

6. INDONESIA PRESIDENT SUHARTO WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH TUN RAZAK IN PENANG ON MAY 3 AND 4. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS FOR RAZAK TO BRIEF SUHARTO ON THE DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHINESE IN NEW YORK ON THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE GOM HAD LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT SUHARTO MIGHT ALSO RAISE THE PROBLEM OF THE PHILIPPINE

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CLAIM TO SABAH. IN GOM VIEW, ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY WAS PHILLIPPINE ACTION ABANDONING CLAIM. GOM SAW NO REASON TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN QUID PRO QUO OF A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLVING PHILIPPINE INTERNAL PROBLEM.
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